

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO ALL EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS

AMCONSUL NAHA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

INFO CINCPAC

COGARD

GOVGUAM

TRSY

XMT AMEMBASSY SUVA

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

UNCLAS STATE 302738

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, XC, US

SUBJECT: DECEMBER 24 EA PRESS SUMMARY

1. INDOCHINA

NVN, LAOS PROMISE VISITING CODEL WOULD TRY ACCOUNT FOR MIAS, BUT INDICATIONS HANOI EXPECTS US RECONSTRUCTION AID IN RETURN (WSJ; CSM). NVN OFFICIALS MADE DEFINITE LINKAGE OF TWO PROBLEMS, SAID MUST "PROGRESS TOGETHER" (CSM). CODEL RETURNED BANGKOK AFTER HANOI, VIENTIANE TALKS. DID NOT SAY NVN CONDITIONING HELP ON US AID, BUT INDICATED MIGHT EXPECT "RECIPROCAL ACTS" FOR ASSISTING MIA SEARCH (AP NYDN, SUN, CHITRIB; NYT). REP MONTGOMERY TELLS NEWSMEN HE GAVE FORD LETTER TO PHAM VAN DONG, THAT SAID US LOOKS TO FUTURE IN RELS WITH VN, GOODWILL GESTURES WOULD BE RECIPROCATED. ALSO TOLD 40-50 AMCITS UNCLASSIFIED

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IN SAIGON WOULD BE ALLOWED LEAVE (AP SUN, CHITRIB). CODEL LEFT FILES WITH NVN, LAOS OFFICIALS, APPEALED TO BOTH TO ARRANGE MEETING WITH CAMBODIANS TO DISCUSS MIA SEARCH (NYT).

LAT'S MCARTHUR (12/23) AT BANGKOK REPORTS USSR ENTERS NEGOTIATIONS WITH LOCAL FIRM WORLD EXPRESS FOR CHARTER FLIGHTS TO CARRY SUPPLIES TO VIENTIANE. WORLD EXPRESS

ASKING PLANES FROM PRIVATE US LINES. AMEMBASSY TAKES POSITION THAT DEAL IS NORMAL COMMERCIAL ARRANGEMENT THAT DOES NOT INVOLVE US OFFICIALLY. MCARTHUR BELIEVES USSR MAY BE TRYING UPSTAGE PRC, WHICH ALSO TRYING GET RICE INTO VIENTIANE.

SAIGON ARCHBISHOP URGES RCS HELP REBUILD INDEPENDENT, REUNIFIED VN. PRG ORDERS ALL SECURITY FORCES IN CITY INSURE ORDER TO ENABLE PEOPLE CELEBRATE XMAS (REUTER, NYT).

2. PHILIPPINES

MARCOS SAYS 2000 GOVT TROOPS KILLED IN 3 YRS' FIGHTING AGAINST MOSLEM REBELS (WP).

3. INDONESIA/TIMOR

PRO-INDO FORCES IN TIMOR ASK JAKARTA FOR TROOPS TO RESTORE ORDER. MOVE APPEARS CONTRADICT EARLIER GOI REPORTS THAT SITUATION CALM, FIGHTING STOPPED (REUTER JAKARTA).

4. JAPAN

FM MIYAZAWA TOLD NEWS CONFERENCE WED THAT JAPAN AND PRC HOPE TO SIGN PEACE/FRIENDSHIP TREATY SOON AS POSSIBLE; ADDED THAT PROPOSED SINO-JAPANESE TREATY HAS MADE CONSIDERABLE PROGRESS (REUTER PARIS).

KUBOTA LTD SAYS IT PLANS SEEK 50 MILLION DOLS IN US PUBLIC MARKET THROUGH OFFERING OF CONVERTIBLE 25-YR UNCLASSIFIED

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DEBENTURES LATE NEXT MONTH (WSJ). BANK AMERICA CORP SHARES WERE LISTED MONDAY ON TOKYO EXCHANGE FOLLOWING TWO-YEAR PERIOD OF PREPARATION AND APPLICATION BY FIRM; BECOMES FIFTH BANK OR HOLDING COMPANY TO HAVE SHARES LISTED IN TOKYO SINCE FOREIGN LISTINGS OK'D TWO YEARS AGO (JOC).

5. GENERAL

CNS (JOC) QUOTES USDA REPORT 1975-6 WORLD RICE CROP UP 6 PCT FROM LAST YEAP, EXVECCTD RE6.LT IILLIAN COUNTRIES: SK SAYS CROP UP 5 PCT TO6.48 MILLION TONS, DECLARES RICE SELF-SUFFICIENCY BUT HAS RICELESS DAYS,

MIXES SUPPLY WITH BARLEY. COUPLED WITH FOREX PROBLEMS.
SK MAY NOT BUY COMMERCIALY IN 1976; TAIWAN 1975
PRODUCTION EXPECTED 3.25 MILLION TONS, MEANS SLIGHT
STOCK BUILDUP BUT EXPORTS CONSIDERED UNLIKELY; PHILS

ANTICIPATES 6 MILLION TON CROP, OFFICIALS SAY DO NOT
INTEND BUY RICE IN 1976; BURMA MIGHT PRODUCE 9 MILLION
TONS, HOPES EXPORT 4-500,000 TONS IN 1976; INDONESIA
PUTS PRODUCTION AT 24 MILLION TONS, ANTICIPATED IMPORTING
600,000 TONS IN 1976; THAILAND EXPECTS EXCEED 15 MILLION
TONS, WITH 1976 EXPORT AVAILABILITY 2 MILLION TONS,
1975 EXPORTS MAY FALL SHORT ONE MILLION TONS, LEAVING
500,000 TON CARRYOVER; PRC PROBABLY WILL HAVE SLIGHTLY
LARGER CROP THAN LAST YEAR, BUT EXPORTS APPEAR
DECLINING; NK EXPECTS BUMPER CROP, WITH 200,000 TONS
AVAILABLE FOR EXPORT IN 1976; INDOCHINA PROBABLY HAS
NOT ATTAINED SURPLUS STATUS, BUT LIMITED AMOUNTS VIET
RICE REPORTEDLY OFFERED FOR EXPORT.

COMMENT AND ANALYSIS

6. KOREA

IN FIRST OF SERIES ON DEVELOPING NATIONS' GROWTH IN
INDEPENDENCE FROM RELIANCE ON INDUSTRIAL NATIONS THROUGH
INCREASED TRADE AMONG THEMSELVES, JOC'S TELFER, IN
SEOUL, SAYS THIS SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED AT SUCH MEETINGS
AS ONE HELD LAST WEEK IN PARIS AMONG MINISTERS OF
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DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. OBSERVES GROK IS
ATTEMPTING REDUCE ITS HEAVY DEPENDENCE ON JAPANESE,
US MARKETS, HAS SCORED NOTABLE TRADE SUCCESSES IN
DEVELOPING WORLD, IN TURN REDUCING OTHER DEVELOPING
NATIONS' DEPENDENCE ON TRADITIONAL SUPPLIERS IN WEST
OR JAPAN.

7. MALAYSIA

PILLAI (WP) AT KL NOTES GOVT CONTINUES PUT UP BRAVE FRONT
IN FACE 2ND COMMUNIST UPRISING, BUT OFFICIALS ADMIT
SITUATION CAUSING CONCERN. REVIEWS RECENT TERRORIST ACTS,
CLASHES, LOCATION LARGE FOOD CACHES. NOTES INSURGENCY
INCREASE COMES AT TIME DECLINING MORALE IN ARMY, POLICE
DUE PARTLY POLICY PROMOTING MALAYS AT EXPENSE OFTEN
MORE SENIOR, BETTER QUALIFIED CHINESE, INDIANS. QUOTES
PSYWAR EXPERT THAT ALL COMMUNISTS WANT IS FOR PEOPLE
REMAIN NEUTRAL; IS SUCCEED, HAVE COME LONG WAY FROM 1960.

CHOPRA (CSM) FROM KL ALSO REVIEWS GROWING DISCORD,
BELIEVES GOM COUNTERMEASURES DUE NOV 13 ASSASSINATION
HIGH POLICE OFFICIAL OF CHINESE ORIGIN COULD HAVE

RACIAL CONSEQUENCES. GOVT SUSPECTS RELOCATED CHINESE IN "NEW VILLAGES" GIVE AID TO "ANTISOCIAL ELEMENTS," SAYS WILL WITHDRAW LAND TITLES FROM THOSE HELPING COMMUNISTS. CHOPRA STATES IMPACT WILL BE FELT MOSTLY BY CHINESE. RECALLS AFTER AUG BOMBING NATL MONUMENT, POLICE SEARCHED PREDOMINANTLY CHINESE AREAS.

PEDERSEN, WHO SPENT 2 YRS MALAYSIA 3 INDONESIA TEACHING AT U LEVEL, TAKES CSM TO TASK FOR RECENT ARTICLE ON MALAY UNITY THAT HE SAYS OVERSIMPLIFIED. SEES IMPORTANT SPLIT BETWEEN URBAN MALAY ELITE, RACIALLY SEGREGATED, RELIGIOUSLY CONSERVATIVE RURAL POPULATION. BELIEVES POLITICAL CLIMATE VOLATILE DUE STRUGGLE VARIETY SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS WHO WANT RADICALLY ALTER GOVT STYLE. HOPES FUTURE CSM ANALYSIS GOES BEYOND OBVIOUS RACIAL ALIGNMENTS.

8. CHINA

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ANDERSON/WHITTEN CONTEND MAO CONFIDED TO PRES FORD IN PEKING DEC 2 THAT NEW PRC RULER WILL BE TENG, AND COLUMNISTS CLAIM TO HAVE OBTAINED CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES OF HAK PASSING WORD IN CONFIDENCE TO GOP LEADERS RECENTLY AT WH MEETING. ADD THAT HAK CONFIDED TO GOP LEADERS THAT LANGUAGE OF HIS PUBLIC STATEMENT IN PEKING, TO EFFECT THAT US AND PRC HAVE "CERTAIN PARALLEL INTERESTS," HAD BEEN REQUESTED BY CHINESE.

REUTER'S ROGERS, IN PEKING, OBSERVES THAT AS PRC LEADERS STOOD IN LONG RANKS, HEADS BOWED, INSIDE GREAT HALL, ASSEMBLED FOR KANG SHENG MEMORIAL CEREMONIES, "IT ONLY CAN HAVE REMINDED" THEM OF VULNERABILITY OLD AGE HAS PLACED ON PEKING HEIRARCHY. IN SECOND HALF OF THIS DECADE, MANY OF THEM INEVITABLY WILL DIE, AND IMPORTANT QUESTIONS ARE WHO WILL REPLACE THEM, WHAT POLICIES WILL BE PURSUED BY NEW MEN AND HOW WILL COUNTRY HANDLE CHANGE-OVER THAT WILL MARK END OF GREAT MAO EFFORT.

ROGERS SAYS THESE QUESTIONS LOOMING OVER PRC'S FUTURE ARE ALREADY OF CRUCIAL IMPORTANCE -- SEEMS UNLIKELY, FOR EXAMPLE, US WILL RESOLVE TAIWAN ISSUE UNTIL HAS HAD TIME WEIGH NEW LEADERSHIP. DEATH, ILLNESS, OLD AGE HAVE WEAKENED COMPOSITION OF PRESTIGIOUS BODIES SUCH AS POLITBURO STANDING CMTE, WHICH NOW HAS ONLY THREE FULLY ACTIVE POLITICIANS -- TENG HSIAO-PING, CHANG CHUN CHAIN, WANG WUNG-WEN -- AND WANG'S POSITION IS SOMEWHAT DOUBTFUL. NOTES ONE SENIOR CHINESE RECENTLY GAVE WESTERN VISITOR IMPRESSION CMTE DID NOT CONVENE OFTEN, THAT TOP-LEVEL ADMINISTRATION RELIED MAINLY ON COMRADESHIP AND UNDER-

STANDING BUILT UP AMONG SENIOR POLITICIANS OVER MANY YEARS. NOTES THAT TO PREPARE MASSES FOR CHANGE, THERE HAS BEEN GRADUAL COOLING OF MAO CULT AND SUSTAINED

ATTEMPT TO PRESENT IMAGE OF LARGE, UNIFIED LEADERSHIP; BUT THERE APPEARS LESS ROOM FOR LEFTIST RADICALS.

ACCORDING ROGERS, REMARKABLE SPEED WITH WHICH TENG HAS RETURNED FROM POLITICAL DISGRACE TO HIGH OFFICE LEADS SOME OBSERVERS TO CONCLUDE HIS PRAGMATIC, CAUTIOUS UNCLASSIFIED

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HAND HAS BEEN CHOSEN TO GUIDE COUNTRY THROUGH POST-MAO/CHOU ERA -- BUT TENG'S AGE RAISES DOUBT. ADDS THAT MANY PEKING OBSERVERS, IF FORCED TO PLACE BETS, PROBABLY WOULD PUT MONEY ON CHANG AS LEADER WHO MOST OBVIOUSLY HAS BIGGER ROLE AHEAD.

PEGGY DURDIN (LAT 12/23) OBSERVES THAT PRC SPEAKS TO CITIZENS WITH SINGLE VOICE OPERATION ON TWO LEVELS -- THROUGH MASS MEDIA AND THROUGH CONFIDENTIAL DIRECTIVES, ORIGINATING IN PEKING, HANDED DOWN THROUGH ALL LEVELS OF CCP, INCLUDING CITY BLOCK CMTEs, RURAL PRODUCTION TEAMS. SAYS PEKING IS PARTICULARLY SKILLFUL IN TAILORING PROPAGANDA TO THOSE RELATIVELY UNSOPHISTICATED PEASANTS WHO WILL RETAIN MANY TRADITIONAL CHINESE SENSIBILITIES. "FACE" IS AMONG MOST PERVASIVE OF SENSIBILITIES FREQUENTLY EMPLOYED IN CCP DIRECTIVES INTENDED FOR PEASANTRY. THOUGH MAO HAS CONSISTENTLY DENOUNCED "FACE" IDEA AS UNWORTHY OF "NEW REVOLUTIONARY MAN," IT HAS TURNED UP IN EVERY INTERPRETATION OF US PRESIDENTIAL VISITS TO PRC, OBJECT BEING TO TAKE "FACE" AWAY FROM US, GIVE IT TO PEKING.

DURDIN CITES ONE STORY WITH SEVERAL VARIATIONS CONCERNING NIXON PRC VISIT DURING WHICH SOME MEMBER OF US PARTY CARRIED HOME VALUABLE, ANTIQUE NINE-DRAGON CUP; BUT CHINESE, AWARE OF THEFT, CLEVERLY USED MAGICIAN TO RETRIEVE TREASURE. THOUGH VERSIONS OF ANECDOTE TOLD BY CHINESE PEASANTS DIFFERED, ALL ACCOUNTS CONTRASTED CUIDITY OF AMERICAN WITH CHINESE INGENUITY; ALL VERSIONS DENIGRATED US, EVEN NIXON, AS STUPID, GREEDY, AND PRAISED SUBTLETY, CLEVERNESS OF SUPERIOR CHINESE, WHO MADE GUESTS "LOSE FACE" WITHOUT AMERICANS EVEN KNOWING IT.

9. GENERAL

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WSTAR'S BRADSHER, IN BANGKOK, CONCLUDES THAT BRIGHT HOPES OF SEA PEACE/FRIENDSHIP THAT BLOOMED LAST SPRING AT END OF INDOCHINA WAR "HAVE WITHERED INTO APPREHENSION." SAYS NATIONS OF AREA NOW FEEL VN COMMUNISTS HAVE IGNORED

OR EVEN REBUFFED ATTEMPTS TO ESTABLISH GOOD NEIGHBORLY
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RELATIONS; SO THEY'RE NOW THINKING INSTEAD ABOUT HAVING
STRENGTHEN THEMSELVES, THROUGH ASEAN FRAMEWORK, AGAINST

POSSIBLY UNFRIENDLY VN. THEIR THINKING DOES NOT GO
SO FAR AS SEEKING MIL ALLIANCE, BUT TO FORMS OF
COOPERATION THAT MIGHT HELP PROP EACH OTHER UP,
ESPECIALLY AGAINST ANY HELP TO OR ENCOURAGEMENT FOR
COMMUNIST GUERRILLAS WITHIN THEIR COUNTRIES FROM
HANOI; BEYOND THIS, THERE IS LONG-TERM CONCERN ABOUT
PRC AND WORRY ABOUT GROWING SOVIET ACTIVITIES IN SEA.
KISSINGER

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